

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 13A and 13B. In Figs. 13A and 13B, labels and brackets indicating the locations of the "active region" and the "inactive region" have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they failed to show certain limitations of Claim 10, namely, the inactive region comprising: a second trench containing a second conductive material, said second conductive material being in electrical contact with said first conductive material, a relatively thin insulating layer on a side wall of said second trench; a relatively thick insulating layer on a bottom of said second trench; and a gate bus in contact with said second conductive material.

Figs. 13A and 13B have been amended to designate an "inactive region" in the area around gate bus 504. The specification at page 16, line 18, refers to "inactive areas, including the 'gate bus' areas." This clearly indicates that the gate bus areas are located within the inactive areas. Thus the designation of the inactive region in the area around gate bus 504 in Figs. 13A and 13B is clearly supported in the specification.

Fig. 13B shows a cross-section line 13C-13C within the inactive region. Cross-section 13C-13C is illustrated in Fig. 13C. Fig. 13C shows a second trench ("gate finger 510") containing a second conductive material, a relatively thin insulating layer on a side wall of said second trench; a relatively thick insulating layer on a bottom of said second trench; and a gate bus (504) in contact with said second conductive material. From Fig. 13B it is clear that the "second conductive material" in the second trench is in electrical contact with the "first conductive material" in the trenches 19 in the active region. Moreover, the specification states at page 17, lines 2-3, "A series of parallel gate fingers 510, which are essentially extensions of trenches 19 extend from active regions 500 to locations below gate bus 504." Since gate bus 504 is in the inactive region, it is clear to one of skill in the art that the conductive material in the trench in the inactive region is in electrical contact with the conductive material in the trench in the active region.

Formal drawings are being filed herewith incorporating these changes.

Specification

Under the heading "Specification," the Office Action states: "Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities," followed by a recitation of the same limitations of Claim 10 that were referred to in the objection to the drawings. Thus Applicants are not sure whether the Examiner intended to object to the claims or the specification and on what grounds the objection is based.

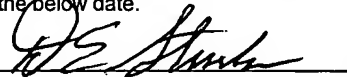
It appears that the Examiner may have intended to object to the specification for failing to describe the same limitations of Claim 10 as are referred to above. The specification has been amended at page 17, line 3, to state explicitly that gate bus 504 is in an inactive region. This amendment is supported at least at page 16, line 18. The specification also describes that electrical contact is made between gate bus 504 and the polysilicon material within gate finger 510 through an opening in BPSG layer 512 (page 17, lines 4-6) and refers to a plug portion 542 at the bottom of gate finger 510 (page 18, lines 7-9). Fig. 13C shows that plug portion 542 is thicker than the insulating layer on the side wall of the trench.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the drawings and specification have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

The Examiner indicated that this application is in condition for allowance except for the above formal matters. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions about this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 408-982-8201.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS"

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the below date.




Attorney for Applicant(s)

6/25/05

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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